

Remarks

Applicants have amended claims 1 to 3, 5, 7, and 11 to 15, and have added new claims 18 to 22. Accordingly, upon entry of these claim amendments, Applicants submit that these claims are currently pending in this patent application. Applicants now address each and every point raised in the above-identified Office action as follows:

I. Specification

The specification has been objected to for not including in the specification reference to the noted priority document for this application. In its Application Data Sheet under 37 C.F.R. § 1.76 that was filed with this application, Applicants indicated Page 2, Section 5 correctly set forth the fact that Domestic Priority information under 35 U.S.C. § 120 was being claimed from then-pending Application No. 10/062,243, filed February 1, 2002.

Applicants have now amended the specification to include reference to such priority document and respectfully request that this amendment be entered and such claim of priority be perfected for this application.

II. Claim Objection

Claim 11 has been objected to by the Examiner for a noted informality. Claim 11 has now been amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner and, in view thereof, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of this claim be reconsidered and withdrawn.

III. Double Patenting

Claims 1 to 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §120 as allegedly claiming the same invention as that of claims 1 to 15 of U.S. Patent No. 6,639,025 ('025 patent). Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 7 and 12 to distinguish the subject matter being claimed therein so that it is not identical to that being claimed in the '025 patent. In

view thereof, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §120 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

IV. Conclusion

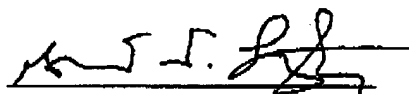
In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the specification and the claims, and the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §120 be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that claims 1 to 3, 5, 7, 11 to 15, and 18 to 22 be passed to allowance.

The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.136 apply. Applicant believes that no extension of term is required. However, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition for extension of time.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees necessary to Deposit Account 10-0440, or to credit any overpayment to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 23, 2005


GRANT T. LANGTON
Reg. No. 39,739

GTL/ke1

JEFFER MANGELS BUTLER & MARMARO LLP
SEVENTH FLOOR
1900 AVENUE OF THE STARS
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90067-4008
TELEPHONE: (310) 203-8080
FACSIMILE: (310) 203-0567

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